

# **Why Strategic Landpower? American Strategic Culture and U.S. Strategy since 9/11**

**Dr. Matthew Trudgen**

- Define strategic culture
- Outline the strategic culture that existed from 1815 to the 1930s
- Examine the current strategic culture and how 9/11 did not change it
- What could happen in the future?

# Alastair Iain Johnston

- Strategic culture is the set of "pervasive and long lasting strategic preferences by formulating concepts of the role and efficacy of military force in interstate political affairs, and by clothing these conceptions with such an aura of factuality that the strategic preferences seem uniquely realistic and efficacious."

# Colin Gray

- As long as one recognizes that in strategic culture one is "discerning tendencies, not rigid determinants, then the end result should be ... more effective practice."

# Costal and Harbour Defences



# Kingston Dispensation

- "The Dominion of Canada is part of the sisterhood of the British Empire. I give you assurance that the people of the U.S. will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by another Empire."  
– Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1938

# Strategic Landpower in the Cold War

- Seventh Army in West Germany to support NATO
- Korean War
  - 40 000 military personnel in South Korea after 1953
- Vietnam War

# Negative Signs

- Iraq War
- Surge in Afghanistan
- Rise of the Tea Party, Senator Bernie Sanders and Rand Paul
- Mearsheimer, Posen and Pape

# *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership*

- “Our planning envisages forces that are able to fully deny a capable state aggressive objectives in one region by conducting a combined arms campaign across all domains, land, air, maritime, space, and cyberspace. This includes being able to secure territory and populations and facilitate a transition to stable governance on a small scale for a limited period using standing forces and, if necessary, for an extended period with mobilized forces.”

# Conclusion

- Defined Strategic Culture
- Outlined the two different strategic cultures that have existed since the War of 1812
- Argued that to understand this issue, one once study why U.S. strategy is offensive in nature

# Questions

